

Polk County Juvenile Detention Alternative Project

Stakeholder's Meeting

September 4, 2008

Welcome & Introductions

Arthur E. Gamble, Chief Judge
Fifth Judicial District

What Brings us Together



DMC Grant Overview

Casey's 8 Core Strategies

- Collaboration
- Accurate Data
- Objective Admission Criteria
- New or Enhanced non-secure alternatives to Detention
- Case Processing Reform
- Special Detention Cases
- Reducing Racial Disparities
- Improving Conditions of Confinement

Collaboration

- The Players: Juvenile justice agencies, other governmental units, and community organizations
- What we agreed to do
 - Move forward to make changes
 - Use technical assistance to determine if gaps exist in the services available
 - Work within the structure of existing groups

Use of Accurate Data

- To diagnose the system's problems and assess the impact of various reforms.
- What we agreed to do:
 - Each agency will identify a contact person to ensure accurate data is maintained at all times
 - Use to help evaluate how cases are processed as well as factors that impact the likelihood of juvenile contact with law enforcement & the outcomes of those contacts
 - Use technical assistance to ensure correct information is collected and monitored
 - Positive results impacting minority confinement

Objective Admissions Criteria

- A key to make sure the right youth are detained
- What we agreed to do
 - Chief Juvenile Court Officers continue to work on a statewide instrument

Implement New or Enhanced Non-Secure Alternatives

- Target only those youth who would otherwise be locked up. Use programs operated by community organizations
- What we agreed to do:
 - Enhance the current continuum
 - Avoid “net widening”

Case Processing Reform

- Expedite the flow of cases through the system to reduce the days in custody, expand the availability of non-secure programs, and ensure timely & appropriate interventions
- What we agreed to do:
 - Be open to the implementation of alternatives to current practices to decrease overrepresentation
 - Use outside technical assistance to help

Special Detention Cases

- Youth in custody as a result of probation violations, writs & warrants as well as those awaiting placement
- What we agreed to do:
 - Juvenile court services will consider developing a set of criteria to guide JCO decision making in addressing probation violations

Racial Disparity

- Eliminate bias and ensure a level playing field—develop specific strategies to eliminate bias
- What we agreed to do:
 - Review current case processing
 - Be open to alternatives to current practices to improve the system and decrease overrepresentation

Conditions of Confinement

- The application of rigorous protocols and ambitious standards
- What we agreed to do:
 - Engage a group of non-biased professionals to review detention center operations

What We've Accomplished

- Since 2005 detention numbers have decreased each year
- The Model Court Program
- Juvenile Court Liaison Position
- Focused efforts addressing disproportionately have been initiated

What Remains a Challenge

- While we have reduced the number of youth held, we have not made much of an impact on the overrepresentation of minorities in detention
- Data gathering and analysis

The Consequences of Detention

- What the research shows:
 - What can happen when we detain the wrong kids
 - Justice Policy Institute (JPI) reports detention has a “profoundly negative impact on young people’s mental & physical well being, their education and their employment.”
 - JPI concluded detention “may” increase likelihood of recidivism.

The Law & the Process

- What the law says
- The process

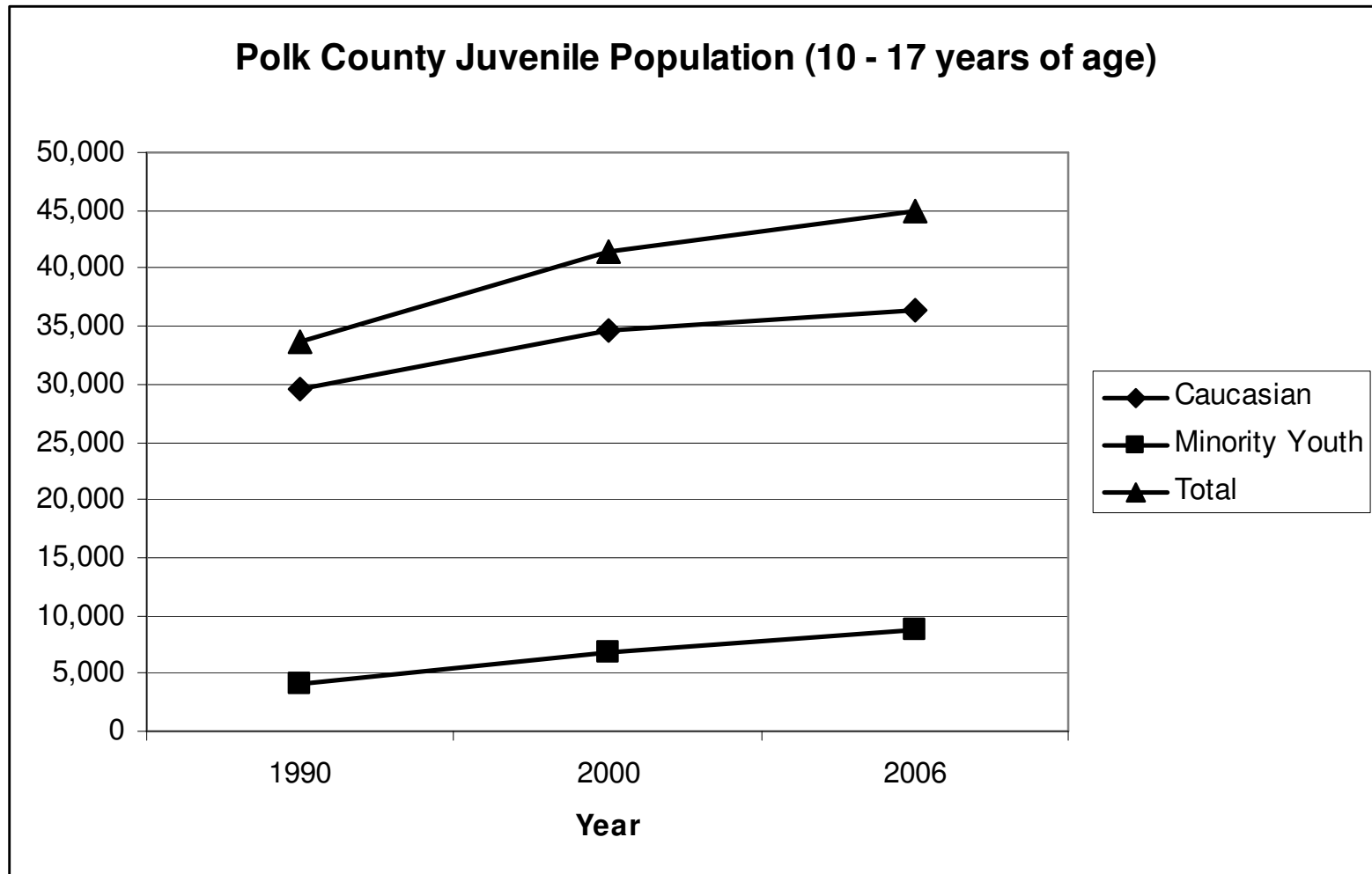
Resources Available

- Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning
 - Dave.Kuker@iowa.gov), phone # 281-8078
 - <http://www.state.ia.us/government/dhr/cjip/index.html>
- Annie E. Casey Foundation

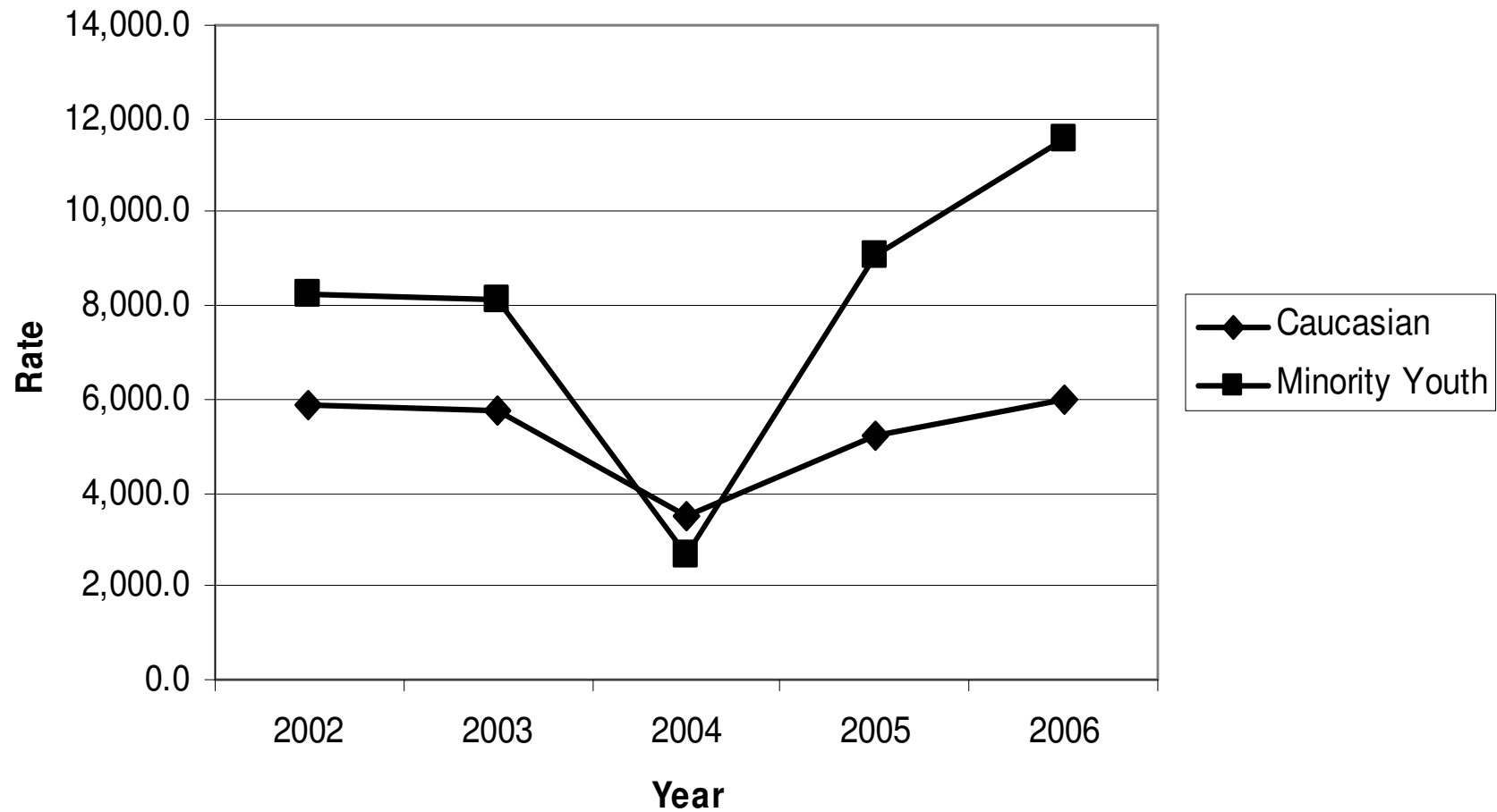
The Continuum of Services

- Currently available in Polk County
- Potential additional services will be based upon the outcomes of this study

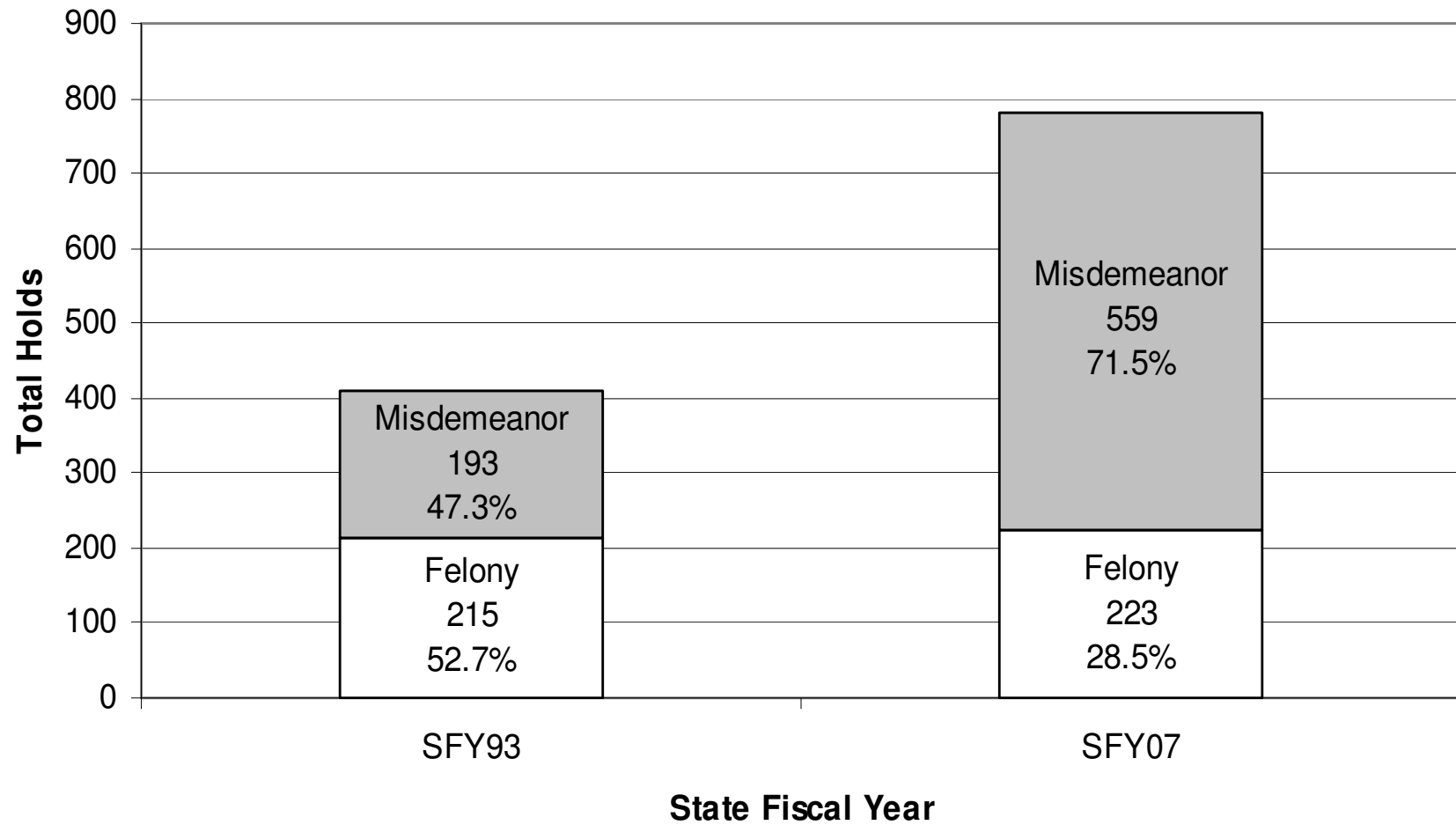
Statistics, Gaps & Challenges



Polk County Arrest Rates per 100,000 Youth (10 - 17 years of age)



Polk County Juvenile Detention Holds

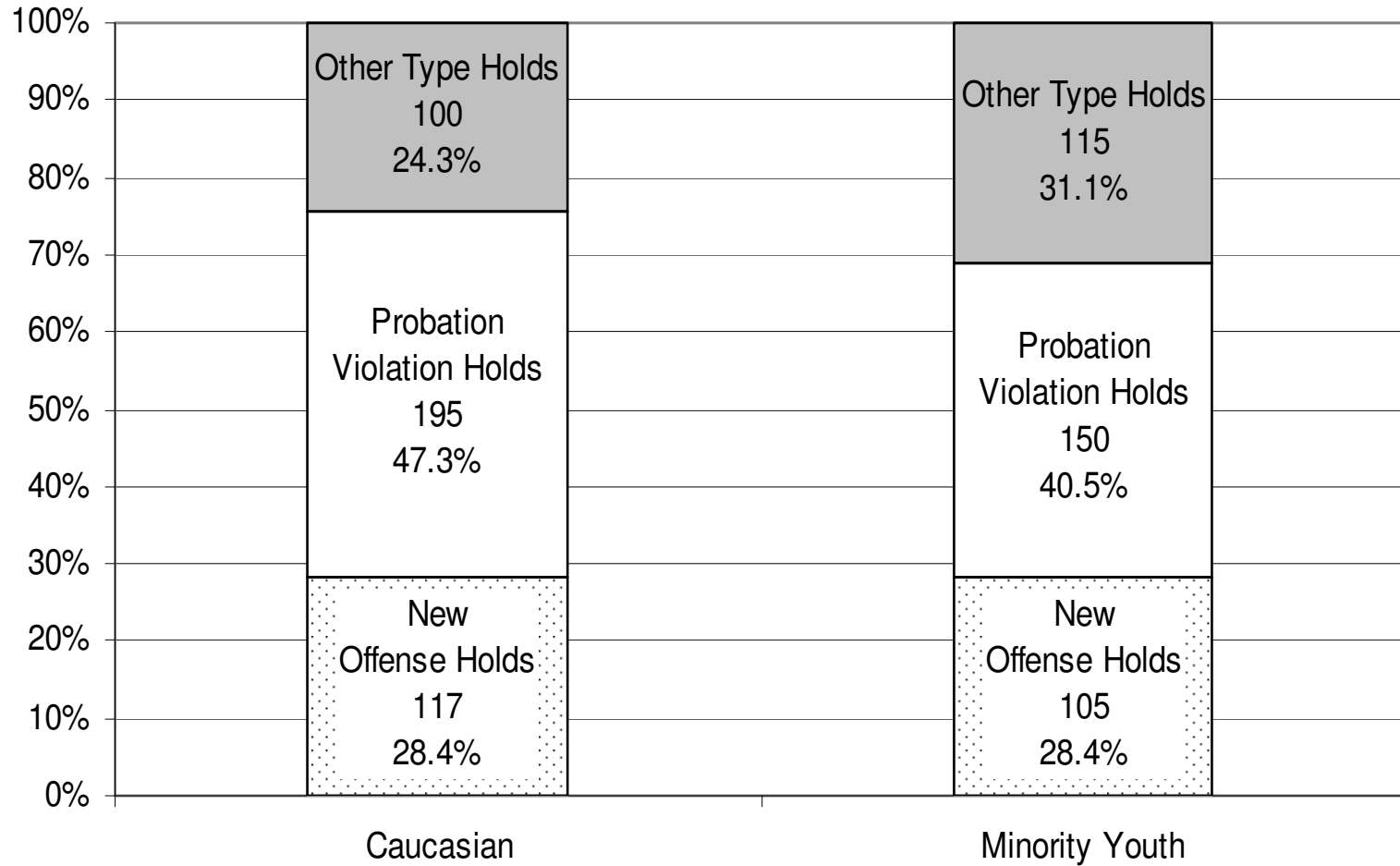


Juvenile Detention Holds by Race/Ethnicity and Offense Level for SFY07

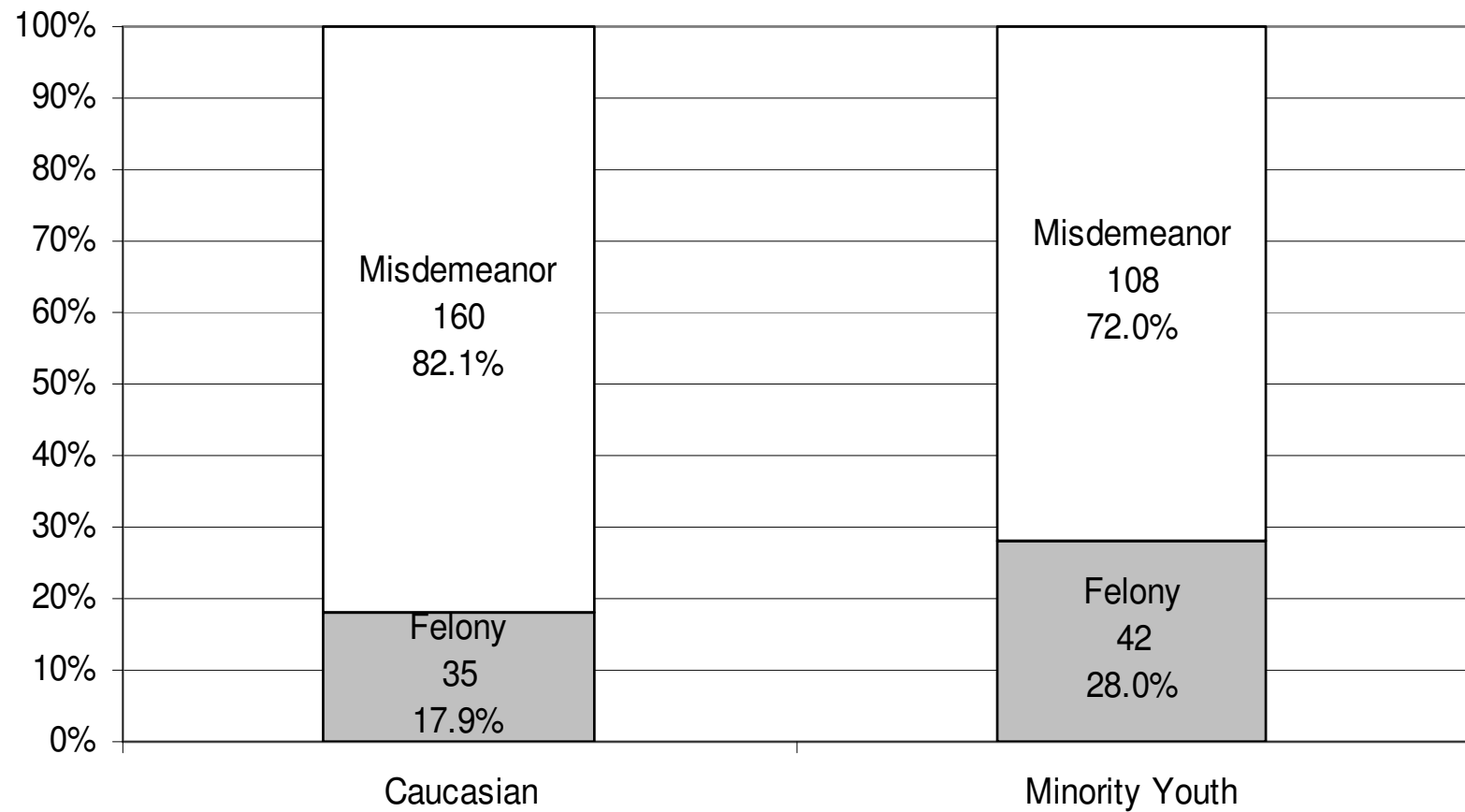
		State of Iowa		Polk County	
		Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Caucasian	Felony	890	31.2%	99	24.0%
	Misdemeanor	1963	68.8%	313	76.0%
African American	Felony	417	33.4%	95	33.7%
	Misdemeanor	830	66.6%	187	66.3%
Hispanic / Latino	Felony	133	38.9%	23	31.5%
	Misdemeanor	209	61.1%	50	68.5%
Asian / Pacific Islander	Felony	12	26.1%	5	41.7%
	Misdemeanor	34	73.9%	7	58.3%
Native American	Felony	35	36.8%	1	50.0%
	Misdemeanor	60	63.2%	1	50.0%
Other / Unknown	Felony	1	50.0%	0	0.0%
	Misdemeanor	1	50.0%	1	100.0%

Source: Iowa Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning

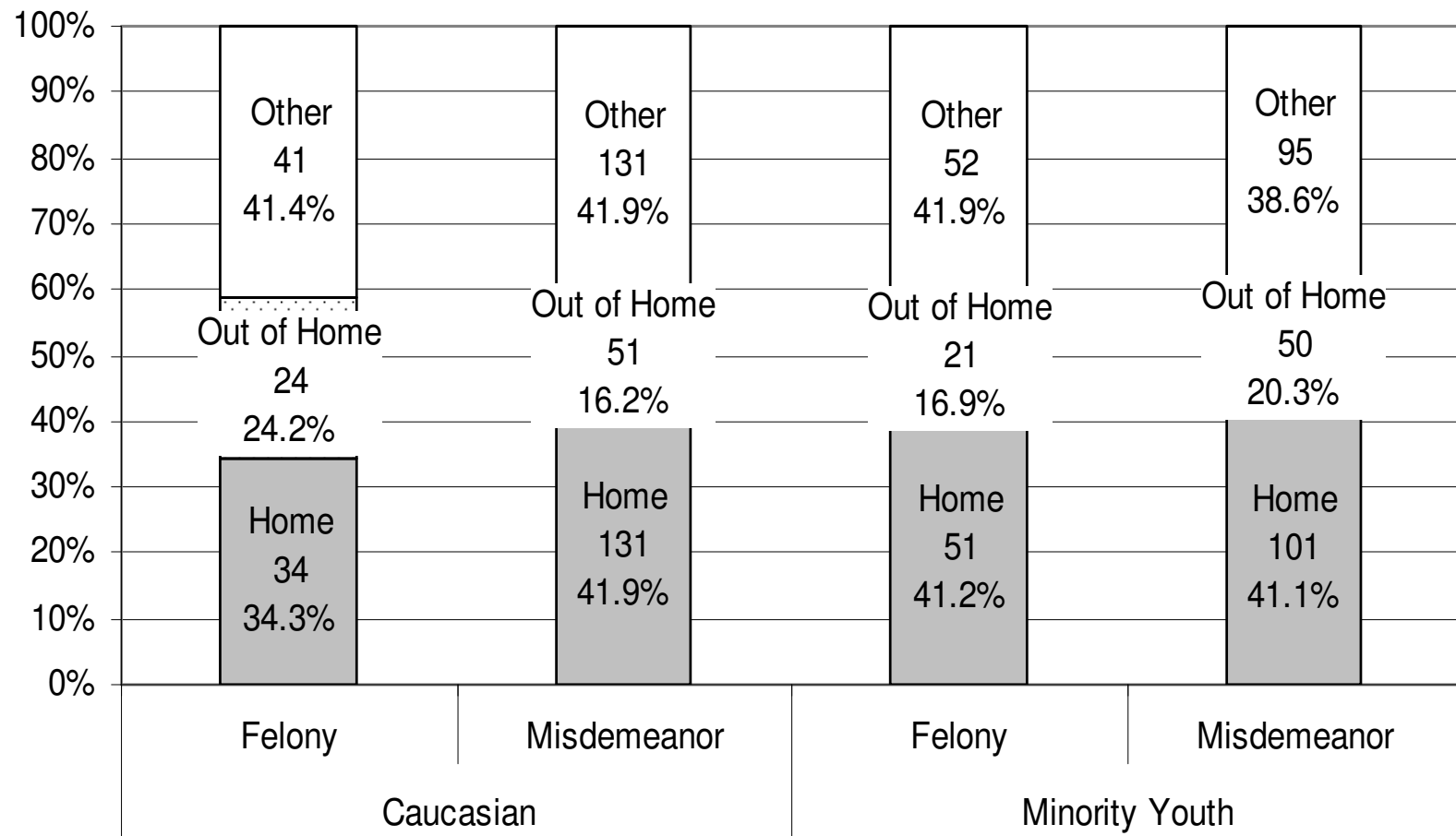
Polk County Juvenile Deention Holds by Type of Hold (SFY07)



Polk County Juvenile Detention Holds for New Offenses (SFY07)

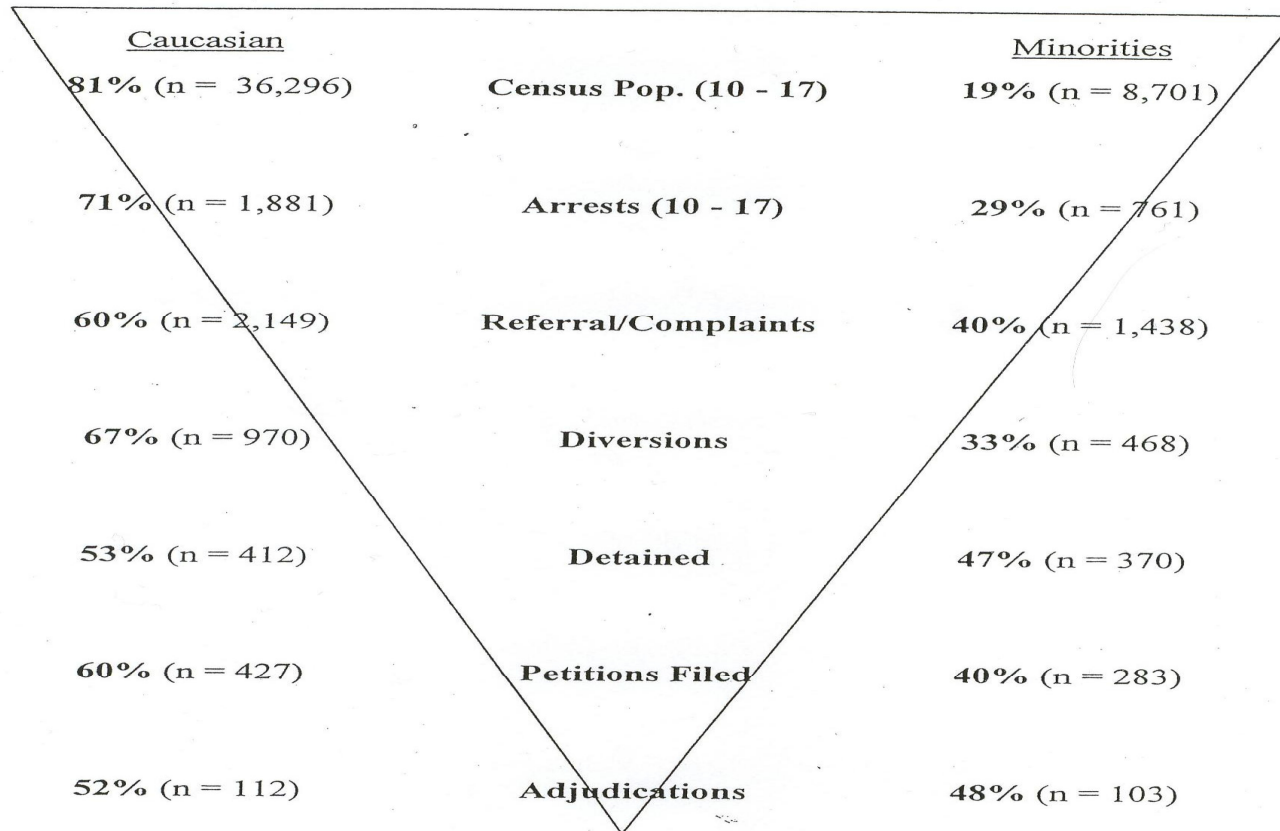


Polk County Placement after Release from Juvenile Detention (SFY07)



POLK COUNTY – SYSTEM DECISION POINTS

POLK COUNTY – BY RACE COMPARISON



Sources: 2006 NCJRS (Census), 2005 Uniform Crime Report (Arrests), 2007 CJJP Justice Data Warehouse (Referrals, Diversions, Petitions, & Adjud.), and SFY2007 CJJP Juvenile Detention Data

Gaps/challenges in the Data

- Number of youth that have contact with law enforcement—county wide
- Variety of sources for data
- Different methods of “counting”
- Aligning data from different systems/collectors

Progress

- Recently collected 6 months of data on youth entering the system
- Data gathered will provide a “bench mark” for future analysis

Next Steps?

- Based upon today's discussion and what you know—where to from here?
- Remember our commitments
 - Open up our “systems” to examination
 - To challenge current systems
 - To provide staff resources to work on the project
 - Gather, analyze & use accurate data
 - Ask for technical assistance
 - Change when warranted

